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tion. An unobstructed place for watching the heavens, a few home-made instruments, and evening hours of laboratory instruction will, I believe, do more to foster a genuine interest in astronomy or prepare for the use of instruments of precision than any amount of text-book study which is supplemented only by desultory star-gazing."

The book has thus grown out of the author's own experience and the needs of her students, and will commend itself to any one who has attempted to teach astronomy to beginners as eminently practical.

The suggestions for beginners in the introductory chapter, respecting the working-list, personal bias, errors, weights, rules for recording, etc., are admirably stated, and may be read and heeded with profit by some who are not beginners. The second chapter describes some simple home-made instruments, and gives directions for their adjustment and use. Then follow chapters on almanacs and maps, celestial globe, and heliotellus, the Sun, the Moon, planets, comets, and shooting stars, stars and Milky Way, and finally a chapter on observations for an inch-and-a-half telescope, and several useful appendixes. In all these chapters a list of suggestive exercises or questions comes first, the answers to which are to be worked out by the students themselves from direct observations or the data furnished by observation.

These exercises have evidently been selected very judiciously, and the suggestions and illustrations that occupy the remaining part of each chapter contain sufficient information to make the book a useful one to an intelligent student, even without the aid of a teacher. One who has worked through it carefully will have a practical grasp of the objects and methods of astronomical work that can be gained so easily in no other way, and will be well prepared to begin work with the ordinary instruments of precision of the observatory.

R. G. A.

March 1, 1899.

ERRATA IN APPENDIX OF AMERICAN EPHEMERIS FOR 1900.

The obliquity of the ecliptic, as given in the Appendix "On the Construction of the American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac for 1900," is three degrees in error, being this amount too small. On the same page (p. 541) the adopted semi-diameter of the Sun is one minute too large.

W. J. HUSSEY.